

ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

CASE NUMBER: TBD

HLC DATE: September 27, 2021 PC DATE: N/A

APPLICANT: Historic Landmark Commission (owner-opposed)

HISTORIC NAME: Frank W. Denius House

WATERSHED: Taylor Slough North

NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN: West Austin Neighborhood

ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE: 3703 Meadowbank Dr.

ZONING CHANGE: SF-3-NP to SF-3-NP-H

COUNCIL DISTRICT: 10

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the proposed zoning change from SF-3-NP (single family residence – neighborhood plan) to SF-3-H-NP (single family residence –historic landmark—neighborhood plan combining district zoning).

QUALIFICATIONS FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION: Architecture and historical associations

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION: N/A

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION: N/A

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The house is beyond the bounds of any historic resources survey to date.

CITY COUNCIL DATE: N/A

ACTION: N/A

ORDINANCE READINGS: N/A

ORDINANCE NUMBER: N/A

CASE MANAGER: Kalan Contreras

PHONE: 512-974-2727

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS: Austin Independent School District, Austin Lost and Found Pets, Austin Neighborhoods Council, Central West Austin Neighborhood Plan Contact Team, Friends of Austin Neighborhoods, Neighborhood Empowerment Foundation, Preservation Austin, SELTexas, Save Barton Creek Assn., Save Historic Mundy District, Sierra Club, Austin Regional Group, TNR BCP - Travis County Natural Resources, Tarrytown Alliance, Tarrytown Neighborhood Association, West Austin Neighborhood Group

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

Architecture: The building is an example of the Classical Revival style. It was designed by George Matthews Page of Austin's Page-Southerland-Page. It is likely that Denius was familiar with Page-Southerland-Page's work at the University of Texas at the time of construction.

Page's two-story symmetrical Greek Revival design features a hipped roof and brick cladding. Its full-width integral porch and second-floor balcony are supported by Classical columns. Ground-floor windows are 6:6, while second-floor fenestration comprises glazed 4-pane French doors. Wood shutters surround all doors and windows.

The pool cabana at the rear of the lot, designed by architect Craig M. Overmiller, features matching columns, full-height multi-light windows with fan lights above, and a metal mansard roof. It was constructed after the period of significance and does not contribute to the property's historic character.

Historical Associations: The house at 3703 Meadowbank Drive was built in 1966 for Franklin W. Denius, decorated World War II veteran and renowned University of Texas sponsor.

At 19, Denius fought in the Battle of Mortain in 1944 as an infantry staff sergeant, holding a vital position for the Allies against 40,000 Nazi troops. His foresight and innovation helped to create a turning point in the war after the Normandy landings, forever changing history. After Mortain, Denius participated in the capture of Aachen and the Battle of the Bulge; his honors include four Silver Stars, two Purple Hearts, a Presidential Citation, the Belgian Croix de Guerre, and Knight of the Legion of Honor—the highest awarded in France, according to Denius' obituary. He is touted as the tenth most decorated World War II veteran by some sources.

After his Army service, Denius graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 1949, beginning his career at the firm of Looney and Clark, where he later became partner. By 1976, Denius had opened his own practice. He specialized in oil and gas law, becoming president of the Southern Union Company later in his career, but also worked as a business consultant for President Lyndon B. Johnson, with whom he became friends.

Denius' 2018 obituary describes him as "a Texas giant, a man of destiny and civic and community impact" as it details his lifelong civic engagement:

At one time or another Frank served as President of the Austin United Way, The Longhorn Club, The Headliner's Club, and was selected by the Austin Chamber of Commerce as the Outstanding Young Man of Austin in 1959. From 1957-1961, Frank was a member of the Texas Legislature Constitutional Revision Committee. Frank was also instrumental in orchestrating Texas A&M's conversion to a co-educational Institution. Frank also served one term on the Austin Independent School Board, and acted as Treasurer for several campaigns of his close friend Congressman Jake Pickle. In the mid-1980s until present, Frank became President of the Cain Foundation established by Frank's uncle, Wofford Cain, which annually grants substantial sums to primarily Texas-based charities throughout the State.

For many Longhorns, Denius is best known as the founder of Texas Exes, the University's alumni association. He served as official counsel to University presidents and spearheaded numerous fundraising campaigns. He made it a point to attend every game and practice, and the team's practice facility was named in honor of his unyielding support. His passion for Longhorn football bolstered his legacy as one of Austin's most famous alumni, and in 2009, the Frank Denius Memorial Plaza was dedicated outside the football stadium. The official Longhorn Football [webpage](#) named him "a true hero" and "the ultimate Longhorn" in 2008, noting:

The Texas Longhorns' special teams are called "The Special Forces" in honor of Frank Denius, a long-time supporter of the football team who was one of the ten most decorated soldiers involved in the European Theater and the D-Day Invasion in World War II. Every time the Longhorns practice, they do so at the practice facility named in his honor. Denius has been named a Distinguished American by the Greater Austin Chapter of the College Football Hall of Fame, and is chairman of the Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium Veterans Committee.

PARCEL NO.: 0121060304

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: LOT 2,4-5 BLK B BROWN HERMAN ADDN NO 2 SEC 4

ESTIMATED ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT: \$8,500 (owner-occupied); city portion: \$2,500 (capped); county portion: \$2,500 (capped); AISD portion: \$3,500 (capped).

APPRAISED VALUE: \$3,317,400

PRESENT USE: Single family residence

CONDITION: Moderate to good

PRESENT OWNERS:

HARDEMAN FAMILY JOINT VENTURE LTD
2518 MATHEWS DR
AUSTIN, TX 78703-1513

DATE BUILT: ca. 1965

ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: n/a

ORIGINAL OWNER(S): Franklin W. and Charmaine Denius

OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS: None

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
AUGUST 23, 2021
PR-2021-092644
3703 MEADOWBANK DRIVE

PROPOSAL

Construct an addition and remodel a ca. 1966 residence and 1987 pool cabana.

ARCHITECTURE

Two-story symmetrical Greek Revival house with hipped roof and brick cladding, designed by George Page of Page-Southerland-Page. Its full-width integral porch and second-floor balcony are supported by Classical columns. Ground-floor windows are 6:6, while second-floor fenestration comprises glazed 4-pane French doors. Wood shutters surround all doors and windows. The pool cabana at the rear of the lot features matching columns, full-height multi-light windows with fan lights above, and a metal mansard roof. It was constructed after the period of significance and does not contribute to the property's historic character.

RESEARCH

The house at 3703 Meadowbank Drive was built in 1966 for Franklin W. Denius, decorated World War II veteran and renowned University of Texas sponsor.

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DESIGN STANDARDS

The City of Austin's [Historic Design Standards](#) (March 2021) are based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and are used to evaluate projects at potential historic landmarks. The following standards apply to the proposed project:

Repair and alterations

1. General standards

The proposed project removes intact historic material from the front of the house, remodeling the Greek Revival façade to enclose the porch and balcony, reworking the roofline, removing existing windows to add steel fixed and casement windows, and adding stucco over existing brick.

3. Roofs

The proposed project modifies the historic roof form, adding shallow hipped forms to the front, back, and side of the building to accommodate additions. The proposed new material is slate composite.

4. Exterior walls and trim

The proposed project covers the existing historic brick with stucco.

5. Windows, doors, and screens

The proposed project replaces all existing windows with steel fixed and casement windows. Proposed windows do not consistently match the size and details of the existing windows.

6. Porches

The proposed project encloses the front porch and balcony, obscuring it entirely. The project's replacement of the front porch and balcony with a partial-width porch and balcony at the front addition is not an appropriate modification for a character-defining feature of the building.

7. Chimneys

The proposed project stuccos the existing brick chimney, a character-defining feature of the house, and adds two matching stucco chimneys.

8. Attached garages and carports

The proposed project adds a bay to the existing rear garage and stuccos the existing brick.

Residential additions

1. Location

The proposed project includes front, side, and rear additions. It does not minimize the loss of historic fabric.

2. Scale, massing, and height

The proposed rear additions are minimally visible from the street and appear subordinate to the main house; however, the front addition obscures the front of the house.

3. Design and style

The proposed additions are not differentiated from the historic building, as the rest of the building is modified to match the additions.

4. Roofs

The proposed rear addition's roof is mostly compatible, save for the angled first-floor element. The addition of a shallow hipped element to the front of the house is not compatible.

5. Exterior walls

The proposed additions' stucco exterior material is somewhat appropriate at the rear of the building, but not the front. Proposed covering of brick with stucco on the existing house is not a compatible treatment.

The project does not meet most of the applicable standards.

PROPERTY EVALUATION

The building was administratively approved for demolition in 2019 without Historic Landmark Commission review. However, background research for historical associations was not conducted by the Historic Preservation Office during the 2019 evaluation. Thus, Frank W. Denius' owner-occupancy and Page-Southerland-Page's design involvement were not considered. The approved demolition permit was later withdrawn by the original applicant.

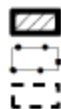
Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain high integrity, though the applicant has indicated that significant water infiltration may affect its structural integrity.
- 3) Properties must meet two criteria for landmark designation (LDC §25-2-352). Staff has evaluated the property and determined that it may meet two criteria:
 - a. *Architecture*. The building is an example of the Classical Revival style. It was designed by George Matthews Page of Austin's Page-Southerland-Page. It is likely that Denius was familiar with Page-Southerland-Page's work at the University of Texas at the time of construction.
 - b. *Historical association*. The property appears to have significant historical associations with Franklin W. Denius, Austin war hero, attorney, businessman, and "ultimate Longhorn."
 - c. *Archaeology*. The property was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
 - d. *Community value*. The property does not possess a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of the city, the neighborhood, or a particular demographic group.
 - e. *Landscape feature*. The property is not a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Consider recommending historic zoning.

LOCATION MAP



SUBJECT TRACT

PENDING CASE

ZONING BOUNDARY

1" = 292'

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: GF 21-101539

LOCATION: 3703 MEADOWBANK DR

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries.

This product has been produced by CTM for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.



PROPERTY INFORMATION

Photos





Source: Remodel application, 2021







Source: Applicant, 2021

Occupancy History

City Directory Research, Historic Preservation Office, 2021

1992 F. W. Denius, owner
Attorney

1985-86 Frank W. Denius

1981 Frank W. Denius

1977 Frank W. Denius

1973 Frank W. Denius

1967 Frank W. Denius

1965 Address not listed

Biographical Information

Frank Denius, soldier who helped hold a vital hill in World War II, dies at 93

[washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/frank-denius-soldier-who-helped-to-hold-a-vital-hill-in-world-war-ii-dies-at-93/2018/08/25/e98bd3e8-a3e0-11e8-8fac-12e98c13528d_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/frank-denius-soldier-who-helped-to-hold-a-vital-hill-in-world-war-ii-dies-at-93/2018/08/25/e98bd3e8-a3e0-11e8-8fac-12e98c13528d_story.html)

August 25, 2018



Frank Denius was a 19-year-old staff sergeant when he and 700 other men of the U.S. Army's 30th Infantry Division — "Old Hickory" — found themselves on a hill in Mortain, Normandy, France, in August 1944 surrounded by four German Panzer divisions, including hundreds of tanks and heavy guns, and 40,000 Nazi troops, among them members of Hitler's elite SS forces.

Mr. Denius, a forward artillery observer, and his comrades were trapped for six days. Half were killed or wounded in what the Texas-raised Mr. Denius, who died July 29 at 93, once called "an Alamo situation for sure."

The hill in question — Montjoie — was known to the Allied military as Hill 314 from its height in meters; although only 1,030 feet high, it was by far the highest point in the region.

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, commander of Allied forces in Europe, ordered Old Hickory to “hold it all costs” as part of an effort to block Hitler’s counterattack to drive the Allies out of France and across the English Channel after the Normandy landings that June. Mr. Denius had waded ashore with a 150-pound backpack on Omaha Beach in the hours after the initial D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944.

From the two ends of Montjoie’s summit, hundreds of yards apart, Mr. Denius and 2nd Lt. Bob Weiss were able to call in Allied air and artillery strikes against the Nazi forces firing on the hill with tanks, artillery, machine guns and rifles, in Mr. Denius’s words, “24/7 for six days.”

With no specific front line around the base of the hill, he and his comrades engaged in hand-to-hand or bayonet combat with German soldiers they encountered at night, as both sides tried to draw water from the nearest well or pick up food rations dropped by U.S. aircraft.

When Mr. Denius’s men’s food and medical supplies ran out, he even called in a “friendly fire” artillery strike on his own precise position, requesting nonexplosive shells containing food and morphine for men who were badly wounded or dying. “Are you sure you want us to do that?” came the reply of the radio operator, who knew that even without explosives, artillery shells could kill.

“Back at the artillery line which was about 8-10 miles behind us, they took the propaganda shells (no explosives attached) and stuffed cotton and morphine and penicillin in those shells,” Mr. Denius said last year in an interview that was published on [the Veterans Project](#) blog, which honors the memory of American veterans of many wars.

Some of those shells buried themselves several feet in the ground, but Mr. Denius and his comrades dug them out. “Now you’d imagine that when those shells hit the ground it would mashup those supplies but we were still able to get some of the morphine and penicillin to the wounded troops,” he said.

Most historians say that Mortain was the battle that changed the outcome of the war in France after the Normandy landings. Senior German officers later acknowledged that defeat at Mortain was the “beginning of the end” for Hitler’s forces, which were forced back from Hill 314 in disarray.

Still with Old Hickory, Mr. Denius went on to help capture the German city of Aachen, part of the Nazis’ Siegfried Line. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge, one of the war’s bloodiest conflicts.

His decorations included four Silver Stars and two Purple Hearts, and in 2012, he received one of France’s highest awards, Knight of the Legion of Honor, for his “virtue, bravery and strong commitment to liberation.”

Franklin Wofford Denius was born in Uniontown, Pa., on Jan. 4, 1925. When he was still a baby, his parents moved to Athens, Tex. He was 9 when his parents divorced, and he was raised by his mother and her parents.

At 13, he enrolled at the Schreiner Institute (now Schreiner University) in Kerrville, Tex., where the emphasis was on military discipline, religious instruction and general education. He was still at Schreiner, just short of his 17th birthday, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

As soon as he turned 17, he enlisted in the Army and was sent to The Citadel military college in Charleston, S.C., to be trained as an artillery forward observer.

After the war, Mr. Denius enrolled at the University of Texas. He graduated with degrees in business and law in 1949. In Texas, he was best remembered as a financial and spiritual supporter of his alma mater, notably as a sponsor and honorary captain of the football team, the Texas Longhorns. After his death, the university called him "the ultimate Longhorn."

He met Charmaine Hooper at a football game after the war, and they were married on Saturday, Nov. 19, 1949, the only day the Longhorns had a weekend off that season.

Mr. Denius began his legal career at the Austin law firm of Looney & Clark, where he built a reputation as a subtle but capable trial lawyer. He became a name partner in the firm Clark, Thomas, Denius, Winters & Harris, where he often represented President Lyndon B. Johnson in personal and business matters and became a lifelong friend to Johnson and his wife, Lady Bird. In 1976, he left the firm to set up his own practice.

He also represented Texas oil and gas businesses and eventually became president and chairman of the Southern Union Co., a natural gas company co-founded by his uncle and mentor, Wofford Cain.

Mr. Denius died of pancreatic cancer in a hospice center in Austin, said his son, Wofford Denius, an entertainment and music lawyer who lives in Beverly Hills, Calif. Survivors also include a daughter, Charmaine McGill, a philanthropist in Austin; and two grandsons. His wife died in 2014.

At the time of his death, Mr. Denius was president of the Cain Foundation, established by his uncle, which provides grants to Texas-based charities. His son and daughter continue to work with the foundation.

On Veterans Day 2009, the Frank Denius Memorial Plaza was dedicated outside the Longhorns' stadium in Austin, honoring UT alumni who fought for their country. Mr. Denius commissioned a bronze statue he called "The Doughboy" to represent American veterans of all wars. With the help of historian Thomas M. Hatfield, he chronicled his war experiences in an autobiography, "On the Way: My Life and Times," published in 2016.

Two years earlier, on the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Mortain, Mr. Denius returned to Hill 314 for a ceremony honoring the 30th Infantry Division with a mini-ticker-tape parade. He walked up the hill with 500 local dignitaries and French townspeople to revisit his old foxhole. The event was filmed for a documentary by Lew Adams of VNE Productions in Austin.

"I hope that American people will always understand what freedom is and the price of freedom," Mr. Denius said to the camera. "Because if you don't, there still remain French people who can describe it for you."

Source: *The Washington Post*, 2018, https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/frank-denius-soldier-who-helped-to-hold-a-vital-hill-in-world-war-ii-dies-at-93/2018/08/25/e98bd3e8-a3e0-11e8-8fac-12e98c13528d_story.html



DENIUS, Franklin W. Franklin W. Denius, iconic Texan, attorney and businessman, 93 years young, passed away peacefully at his Austin home on Sunday, July 29, 2018. Born January 4, 1925, in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, the only child of Francis C. and Samuel F. Denius. Shortly after Frank's birth his parents moved to Athens, Texas, where he was raised by his Mother and Grandmother, "Mattie" Wofford Cain. In spite of his birthplace, however, no one ever questioned Frank's love, devotion and loyalty to Texas nor his authenticity as a Texan.

At 13, his influential and paternalistic uncle, Wofford Cain, persuaded Frank's Mother to enroll him at Schreiner Military Institute in Kerrville, Texas. Frank graduated High School at Schreiner. While continuing Courses at Schreiner, the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred and thereafter he enlisted in the Army at 17 years old. Frank was initially dispatched to the Citadel Military Academy, where he matriculated, as well as trained as an artillery forward observer.

After basic training at Camp Roberts, Frank was transferred to England in preparation for the D-Day Invasion. In 1946, Frank was discharged from the Army as one of the ten most decorated Soldiers in the European Theater of WWII, having

fought in every major battle in Europe, perhaps most notably, landing on Omaha Beach in the "second wave" of the D-Day Invasion, and as a member of the "Lost Battalion" in the battle for Mortain, France, holding off 70,000 German troops and five Panzer Tank Divisions to defend Hill 314. For his military service, Frank received numerous medals for his service, including, four Silver Stars, the Belgian and French Croix de Guerre, a Presidential Citation, and the highest French Honor - Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur. Frank was also wounded twice, each time returning to battle, and he received two Purple Hearts. In spite of such decorations, he wore his honors lightly. He was a patriot who proved love of country at the risk of his life, accepting responsibility for the lives of others as a very young man.

Upon discharge from the Army, Frank enrolled in his beloved University of Texas where he studied business and law. Frank graduated UT Law School in 1949. On an "off" Longhorn Football Weekend in Athens Texas, Frank married his "sweetheart" Charmaine Hooper, whom, not surprisingly, he met at an Athens High School Football game on leave from the War. Frank commenced his legal career at the influential Austin, Texas law firm of Looney & Clark.

As a lawyer, he was capable of hardball but his style was subtle. He became a major player among the most major players, and he became a name partner in Clark, Thomas, Denius, Winters & Harris, until he left the firm in 1976 to pursue his solo practice. During his legal career, Frank frequently worked on President Lyndon B. Johnson's personal business affairs (and later became good friends with the President and his family), and many other of Texas' luminary businessmen such as, Clint W. Murchison, Wofford Cain, Howard Butt, Jack Crosby, and Grogan Lord, and specialized in utility law, particularly in the oil and gas industries representing numerous utility and oil and gas related publicly traded Companies. Frank eventually became President and Chairman emeritus of Southern Union Company, originally established by Wofford Cain and Clint Murchison.

Frank Denius was a Texas giant, a man of destiny and civic and community impact. At one time or another Frank served as President of the Austin United Way, The Longhorn Club, The Headliner's Club, and was selected by the Austin Chamber of Commerce as the Outstanding Young Man of Austin in 1959. From 1957-1961, Frank was a member of the Texas Legislature Constitutional Revision Committee. Frank was also instrumental in orchestrating Texas A&M's conversion to a Co-educational Institution. Frank also served one term on the Austin Independent School Board, and acted as Treasurer for several campaigns of his close friend Congressman Jake Pickle. In the mid-1980s until present, Frank became President of The Cain Foundation established by Frank's uncle, Wofford Cain, which annually grants substantial sums to primarily Texas-based charities throughout the State.

Frank is well known for his passion and love for the institution of the University of Texas and the Texas Longhorn Football Team, together with its many current and former athletes and coaches. Frank served as counsel to numerous Presidents of the University, and was actively involved in numerous UT Capital Campaigns. Frank was instrumental in founding and organizing the "Texas Ex Students Association" and was one of the Organization's first Presidents; Frank remained active in the organization for the remainder of his life.

In his later years, you would find Frank attending football practice daily at the practice facility named after him, "Denius Fields", visiting with the coaches and kidding with his Longhorn "teammates". Frank's spirit will forever be there and in Memorial Stadium at Seat 26, Row 15, Section 4 at Memorial Stadium. Frank was in the present and a man of joy, kind acts never known by others, faithful to his family and friends. He was a strong and faithful Christian, and an active member of

Westminster Presbyterian Church for over 60 years. Frank was a loving and compassionate Husband and incomparable and supporting Father. Frank and Charmaine were married 64 years.

Education, intelligence, honesty, integrity, dedication, commitment, hard work, respect for others, his attitude of never giving up and always giving 110% effort in everything you do were the tenants of his character, and are the qualities and attributes he tried to instill in his children, as well as any individuals whom he mentored throughout his life. Frank was welcoming, and he was mannerly in a way lost for several generations and deeply missed by those who knew and recognized it; Frank was truly a "Southern Gentleman". Equally unparalleled was his thoughtful generosity and deep humanity; he not only gave financially, but of himself and his time. He was a man who laughed often, worked hard, loved his family, his friends, the State of Texas, The University of Texas, and Westminster Presbyterian Church. He mastered the major challenges he met in his long life and never lost his curiosity; and his attention to minute detail was amazing. Frank's gregariousness was special, and when he saw friends his face lit up with his special warm, friendly and infectious deep grin and his eyes never failed to light up. His boundless energy, ferocious capacity for work and mastery of detail was an integral part of what became the Denius legend.

Frank was preceded in death by his Wife, Charmaine H. Denius and his grandson Frank Wofford McGill. Frank is survived by his son Wofford ("Woffie") Denius and his wife, Beth B. Denius, his daughter Charmaine D. McGill and her husband, J. Gordon McGill, his grandchildren Parker McGill and Reagan Denius. On behalf of Frank, the Denius Family would like to give special thanks to Renate Bombick for her love, friendship, and devotion to Frank and our family for over thirty-five years. A Memorial Service will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3208 Exposition Blvd., Austin, Texas, at 1:00PM on Tuesday, July 31, 2018. Any donations should be made to either Westminster Presbyterian Church or Hospice Austin. Arrangements by Weed-Corley-Fish North Lamar (512) 452-8811. Remembrances may be left at www.wcfish.com.

Dallas Morning News, 2018: [https://obits.dallasnews.com/us/obituaries/dallasmorningnews/name/franklin-denius-
obituary?id=1961224](https://obits.dallasnews.com/us/obituaries/dallasmorningnews/name/franklin-denius-
obituary?id=1961224)

University of Texas Athletics



Frank Denius, true hero and Longhorn Football

Posted: 05.28.2007

The Texas Longhorns' special teams are called "The Special Forces" in honor of Frank Denius, a long-time supporter of the football team who was one of the ten most decorated soldiers involved in the European Theater and the D-Day Invasion in World War II. Every time the Longhorns practice, they do so at the practice facility named in his honor. Denius has been named a Distinguished American by the Greater Austin Chapter of the College Football Hall of Fame, and is chairman of the Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium Veterans Committee. This is his story.

By Milton Carr (Adjutant, Texas Capital Chapter 1919, The Military Order of the Purple Heart, Austin, Texas)

Franklin W. Denius spent his early childhood in Athens, Texas, where his family lived and where he attended public schools. As a young teenager, he went off to military prep school, Schreiner Institute in Kerrville. He graduated there in 1942 and then enrolled, as a member of the Army Program for 17 year olds, at the Citadel in Charleston, S.C. After two semesters he enlisted in the Army and entered active duty June 3, 1943. Pvt. Denius, after basic artillery training, was assigned to the 30th Infantry Division.

The 30th Infantry Division moved to port of embarkation, sailed from Boston harbor on February 11, 1944, and arrived in England on February 22, three months before the invasion landings in Normandy. Frank Denius was a fire control instrument operator assigned to a forward observer party in Battery C of the division's 230th Field Artillery Battalion. The 230th Artillery was the first element of the division to be committed in the invasion. The battalion was called ashore to Omaha Beach, landed on D+1 (June 7), and immediately went into action providing fire support for the 29th Infantry Division that had made the initial assault landing against very heavy opposition the day prior.

Six days later, Frank's unit was back with the 30th Infantry Division providing fire support for the 2nd Battalion, 120th Infantry Regiment. Then, on July 17, 1944, when his forward observer party was operating forward of the lines, the officer in charge was killed by enemy machine gun fire. While still subject to enemy fire and at great risk to his own life, 19-year-old Pvt. 1st Class Denius took over and called for, observed, and adjusted artillery fire that was essential to the advancing infantry in accomplishing the mission. He would later receive the Silver Star for his actions that day, and he would also be promoted to corporal and made chief of detail in charge of his forward observer party.

By July 24, a tremendous Allied force had been moved across the channel from England, but, still confined to limited space in Normandy, was poised near St.-LO for the beginning of "Operation Cobra," the breakout across France. The 230th Artillery Battalion was among hundreds of units that were coiled up along the axis of advance

just behind the front lines. Lt. Gen. Leslie J. McNair, Commander, United States Ground Forces, had come forward to observe the start of the operation and he was in the area of the 119th Infantry Regiment of the 30th Division when heavy bombers came over to deliver a preparatory strike against the German defenses. Many of the bombs fell short and more than 800 Americans were killed or wounded. Among the dead was Gen. McNair, the highest ranking Allied officer killed in WWII. Frank says, "I was only 75 yards from General McNair when he was killed."

In Normandy two weeks later, Frank Denius was again supporting the 2nd Battalion, 120th Infantry when they moved into position at Mortain on August 6. Early the next day, the Germans launched a massive counteroffensive with 70,000 troops, determined to reach the sea and divide the Allied armies. Their attack started by sweeping west, through and past Mortain, towards Avranches and the coast. Hill 314 (some sources identify it as Hill 317) was the dominant terrain in the area and it lay astride the two main roads leading west out of Mortain. Approximately 700 men of the battalion and its attached units gathered there and consolidated their defense of Hill 314. For the next six days they would be cut off, surrounded, and repeatedly attacked until they were out of ammunition and nearly defenseless, except for one thing. From their vantage point, the observers -- Frank Denius among them -- could call fire missions wherever they could see the enemy and they could see from horizon to horizon. They dealt terrible destruction on the Germans and the counterattack to the sea failed because of it. Late on August 10, the Americans on the hill received an airdrop of supplies relieving the critical shortage of ammunition and rations. However, they were out of medical supplies and the untreated wounded were dying as a result. In one of the most unusual happenings of the war, the 230th Artillery emptied some of their base ejection projectiles and filled them with bandages, dressings, sulfanilamide and morphine syrettes. On the evening of August 10 and again on August 11, Frank Denius directed the shelling of his own position with the medical supply-filled rounds. At least some of the projectiles were recovered with serviceable contents intact, and those supplies were critically needed. Late in the morning of August 12, other 30th Infantry Division units reached Hill 314 and relieved the 376 survivors that were still able to walk away from the hill. One of those survivors was Frank Denius, who afterwards was decorated with a second award (first oak leaf cluster) of the Silver Star.

Later, in Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge, his forward observer party was again supporting the infantry battalion. On December 22, 1944, they found themselves in the path of a German Panzer attack. Their artillery observation post was discovered by the enemy and taken under fire by German tanks. Despite the fire that began to fall all around him, Sgt. Denius refused to withdraw from the post and continued "rendering artillery support" until the attack had been repulsed. Staff Sgt. Franklin W. Denius later received his third award (second oak leaf cluster) of the Silver Star. He was still a teenager at the time. Frank was wounded during the fighting in Normandy, wounded again during the Battle of the Bulge, and was awarded his second Purple Heart in February 1945. After serving with his unit in the Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe campaigns through to the end of the war in Europe, Frank Denius returned home with the 30th Infantry Division. He arrived in the United States on August 25, 1945, and proceeded home to Texas where he was discharged in San Antonio at Fort Sam Houston on October 2. A fourth Silver Star was awarded to Frank after the war was over in 1945.

After leaving the Army he enrolled at The University of Texas and he has made his home in Austin ever since. Frank graduated in 1949, a big year for him. He earned degrees in both business and law; was admitted to the State Bar of Texas; went to work for the Austin law firm of Looney, Clark and Moorhead; and became a director in the Cain Foundation (established by his uncle, Wofford Cain, a 1913 Texas A&M graduate and former A&M regent). That year, too, he married Charmaine Hooper who was also from Athens, Texas.

Now, more than 50 years later, he continues to practice law, he serves as director of the Southern Union Company and of JPMorgan/Chase Bank, and he is president of the Cain Foundation. In his decades of service, he has chaired or served as counsel or in other leadership positions, on many committees, councils and boards of corporations, of the city and state government, and of The University of Texas and Texas A&M University, all institutions he served with intense devotion.

But nowhere is his personal involvement more apparent than it is with University of Texas football. He goes to all the home games and most of the away games. He faithfully attends all the football practices as well, which once prompted Coach [Mack Brown](#) to say, "He's made more practices than I have."

Frank is a life member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 1919. Frank and Charmaine Denius have two children, Frank Wofford Denius and Charmaine Denius McGill, and three grandchildren.

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Source: https://texassports.com/news/2007/5/28/052807aaa_381.aspx, 2007

The below compilation includes a synopsis of a video biography and oral history of Frank W. Denius by Milton Carr, as well as a memorial segment by Bill Little. Full text and video is available at <https://www.texaslsn.org/frankdenius#>.



Frank Denius, true hero and Consummate Longhorn

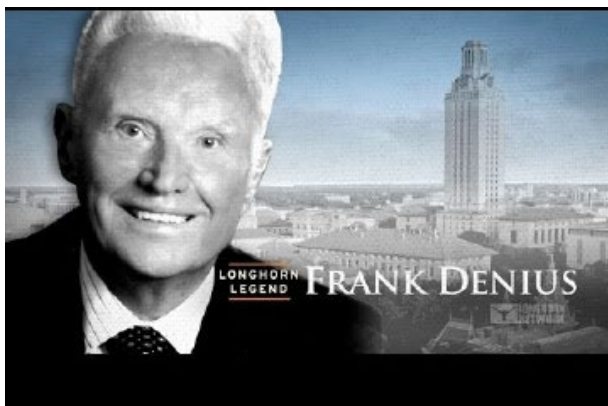
By Milton Carr
(Adjutant, Texas Capital Chapter 1919, The Military Order of the Purple Heart, Austin, Texas). He was one of the ten most decorated soldiers involved in the European Theater and the D-Day Invasion in World War II. Frank was a long-time supporter of the Longhorn

football team, and in honor of his support, the Texas Longhorns' special teams are called "The Special Forces." Every time the Longhorns practice, they do so at the practice facility named in his honor. Denius is a Distinguished American celebrated by the Greater Austin Chapter of the College Football Hall of Fame, and he was chairman of the Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium Veterans Committee. This is his story.

Franklin W. Denius spent his early childhood in Athens, Texas, where his family lived and attended public schools. As a young teenager, he went off to military prep school, Schreiner Institute in Kerrville. He graduated in 1942 and then enrolled, as a member of the Army Program for 17-year-olds, at the Citadel in Charleston, S.C. After two semesters, he enlisted in the Army and entered active duty on June 3, 1943. Pvt. Denius, after basic artillery training, was assigned to the 30th Infantry Division.



Watch Video At: <https://youtu.be/ezDnbbhNV7E>



Watch Video At: <https://youtu.be/MiYs1gt4ebU>



Watch Video At: <https://youtu.be/bYmE-HndIoM>

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But nowhere is his involvement more apparent than it is with the University of Texas football. He goes to all the home games and most of the away games. He faithfully attends all the football practices, which once prompted Coach Mack Brown to say, "He's made more practices than I have."



Frank is a life member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 1919. Frank and Charmaine Denius have two children, Frank Wofford Denius and Charmaine Denius McGill, and three grandchildren.

Frank Denius' contributions to Longhorn traditions represent a portal to the past that reminds Longhorn fans that heritage shapes the present and empowers the future. "In glory and with eternal gratitude to all veterans whose legacy is our freedom." -- Frank Denius



Watch Video At: <https://youtu.be/hClEosdzct4>

Watch Video At: https://youtu.be/KygPcKre1_c

In Memoriam: Frank Denius

Legendary Longhorn supporter and American hero passed away at the age of 93.

A Memorial Service was held at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, July 31, at 1 p.m. A reception followed at Tarry House at 2:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family asks those interested in considering donating to the Westminster Presbyterian Church or Hospice Austin.

By Bill Little

Images to Bill's article are from Billy Dale

At a post-game press conference when Darrell Royal was coaching the Longhorn football team, a sportswriter asked him about the importance of the team of a particular player who had been injured.

"How much will your team miss him?" the writer asked.

Darrell Royal paused for a moment, and then he said this:

"How long is a piece of rope?"

The point was, some things are immeasurable.

That quote came to mind when we learned of the death of Frank Denius.

How much did Frank mean to all of us?

"How long is a piece of rope?"

Frank Denius, who died Sunday at the age of 93, was simply the most loyal friend, committed Longhorn football fan, and — most of all — American patriot to ever come into our lives.

He believed in football, because he believed in the spirit of the game and what it taught young kids. He celebrated the victories, hated the defeats, and was always ready to strap on his boots for one more march to the next game.

Unlike some who would call a football game a "battle," Frank understood that it was a game. An outstanding game, but a game all the same. Born on January 4, 1925, in Athens, Texas, Frank was the definition of a life well-lived, and he knew the difference between a game and a battle. A 1949 UT graduate, he loved his university and his country more than any person I ever knew.

That is why he could meld pride and emotion into humility and graciousness. He gave much more than he received; he was a builder who loved people. We loved Frank because he loved us.

Folks said he was the 10th most decorated soldier in the European theater of World War II. And he attended more Longhorn football games and practices than any coach in a span that lasted more than 70 years from the 1940s through last season.

Through his family's Cain Foundation, Frank was the driving force behind millions of dollars given to his alma mater, UT-Austin, and Texas A&M University, where his grandfather was once a member of the Board of Regents.

As a lawyer, he was a pivotal force in the defining moments of integration of athletics at UT in the 1960s. As a benefactor, he was one of the founders of the Greater Austin Chapter of the College Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame, among the many organizations in which he participated.

When Texas Memorial Stadium was undergoing various transformations through the years, it was Frank who stood sentinel, making sure that the original purpose of the stadium — to honor those Texans who died in World War I — were honored. And it was Frank, working with Coach Royal, who maintained that integrity as the newest version became Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium in 1996.

Outside of a highly-trafficked corner of the stadium where his beloved Longhorns played, a dream was realized with the creation of the Frank Denius Memorial Plaza. The display outside the northwest corner of the stadium is complete with the inclusion of a statue of a World War I vintage "doughboy," along with the stadium's original tablet of tribute. All along, he rarely missed a football

game. Oh, he did take a night off when the Congressional Medal of Honor Society presented him with a Patriot Award, but for the most part, he headed to Longhorn games, both home and away. At first, it would be on a party bus with his wife and friends such as Noble Doss, Wally Scott, Don Weedon, Rooster Andrews, and an elite collection of citizens of Austin, and storied Longhorns of the past. One by one, they have gone away. Then, it became a road trip with the Texas Exes and the Longhorn band, with Ted Koy and his wife Valerie often picking him up at 4 a.m. for a flight to places like Ames, Iowa, and Manhattan, Kansas. Frank was there in Pasadena when Mack Brown's Longhorns helped him celebrate his 81st birthday with the BCS National Championship in January of 2006. But then, it seemed, Frank was always there. Others would tell his



story — how he hit Normandy Beach in June of 1944 as part of the Allied Forces which came to liberate Europe from the Nazis — and how, year after year, he would take a pilgrimage back there to remember. Frank's story and his presence were long an inspiration to the UT teams, coaches, and staff he supported. During the Mack Brown era, in his honor and as a tribute to our military, the Longhorns' special teams became known as the Special Forces, and Texas' Most Valuable Special Teams Player was named in his honor. You can throw out all the clichés when it comes to Frank. He was indeed "larger than life." He was "a giver, not a taker." He was a friend who would stand at the practice fields, which bore his name and learn about decades of Longhorn players. He would know their names, as well as their parents' names, where they were from, and their stories. If you needed advice, he had it. If you needed a friend or a shoulder to lean on, he was there. Most of all, he was a true American hero who served well as a member of "The Greatest Generation."



And in that space, he, like the others, should be remembered not only for what they did but for who they were. Gradually, we are losing them, and we are left to honor their legacy and share and remember their impact. That is why it is impossible to define Frank Denius. He was too big to quantify. There will be a massive void at the Frank Denius Practice Fields when the Longhorns begin practice for the 2018 season on August 3, and he will be missed as Texas heads to Washington D.C. to face Maryland on September 1. How much did he matter, and how much will we miss him? How long is a piece of rope?

Source: "Longhorn Bridge Builders And Pioneers," <https://www.texaslsn.org/frankdenius#>



Full photo gallery available at TexasSports.com: <https://admin.texassports.com/galleries/general/frank-denius/4499>

In Memoriam: Frank W. Denius '49

July 29, 2018

A Memorial Service will take place at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, July 31, at 1 p.m. A reception will follow at Tarry House at 2:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers the family asks those interested to consider making a donation to the Westminster Presbyterian Church or Hospice Austin.

One of the greatest men from the Greatest Generation, Frank Wofford Denius '49 has died at the age of 93. The cause was pancreatic cancer.

Denius was known for a record of philanthropy that rarely has been equaled in Texas history. Through the Cain Foundation — established by Frank Denius's aunt and uncle, Effie and Wofford Cain — he delivered millions of dollars in scholarships and grants to universities within Texas and funded academic medical research. His benevolence touched thousands of people and many organizations, including his beloved University of Texas, and the city of Austin.



Though Frank Denius was best-known for that philanthropy, along with his legendary devotion to Longhorn football and his status as one of America's 10 most decorated World War II veterans, he was also a seminal figure in the Austin legal, business, and political worlds of the 20th century.

"Frank Denius was a Hall-of-Fame graduate of the UT Law School — a war hero, a wonderful lawyer, and a great friend of this school and the rest of the University," said Dean Ward Farnsworth. "We were very honored to be able to recognize him in 2017. His memory will live on with us always. Our thoughts are with his family."

Denius received the Law School Alumni Association's Lifetime Achievement Award last year at a gala dinner. Moved to tears by the ceremony, Denius told the assembled dignitaries, "I owe everything to the law school. That education, that degree, made everything I did possible."

Source: University of Texas at Austin School of Law, <https://law.utexas.edu/news/2018/07/29/in-memoriam-frank-w-denius-49/>

UT Mourns the Loss of Alumnus Frank Denius, the Ultimate Longhorn

 news.utexas.edu/2018/07/29/ut-mourns-the-loss-of-alumnus-frank-denius

July 29, 2018

Campus & Community

 Jul 29, 2018

Frank Denius was the ultimate Longhorn. He came to The University of Texas in 1945 after returning from World War II as a highly decorated hero — and never stopped giving his time, passion and resources to his alma mater.

By: Sara Robberson Lentz

A memorial service will take place at 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 31 at Westminster Presbyterian Church. In lieu of flowers, the family asks those interested to consider making a donation to Westminster Presbyterian Church or Hospice Austin.

The University of Texas at Austin has many devoted fans, but few loved UT as **Frank Denius** did.

With his passing early Sunday morning at the age of 93, the UT community mourns the loss of one of the university's most loyal alums.



"Frank Denius was the ultimate Longhorn," said **President Gregory L. Fenves**. "He came to The University of Texas in 1945 after returning from World War II as a highly decorated hero and never stopped giving his time, passion and resources to his alma mater. His generosity improved the lives of thousands of students and allowed UT to grow into one of the great public flagship universities in the nation. He was a friend and adviser to me and to many previous presidents. I will miss him greatly, but I know his legacy will last for generations here on the Forty Acres."

Denius received four Silver Stars and two Purple Hearts for his service and leadership in the European Theater and as a member of the invasion of Normandy on D-Day. The Athens, Texas, native returned home after the war, enrolling in UT Austin in October 1945 at the age of 20.

He earned two degrees in business and law. Denius soon developed a reputation as one of Texas' premier lawyers and civic leaders.

Denius also developed a reputation as a devoted football fan. The team's practice fields are named after him in honor of his support of Texas Athletics. As former coach Mack Brown liked to say, "Frank has been to more practices than I have." Denius never missed a football practice or game.

His spirit and generosity are legendary. Both individually and through his family's Cain Foundation, Denius was the driving force behind many types of philanthropic support to his alma mater including the Moody College of Communication, School of Law, College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts and the Harry Ransom Center.

He was an early advocate for a medical school in Austin, beginning in the mid-1950s. Without his steady and ceaseless efforts, the university's Dell Medical School would not be a reality today.

"God's gift to us is our potential. What we do with our potential is our gift to Him," said **Athletics Director Chris Del Conte** in a [tweet](#) Sunday afternoon. "Frank Denius will be missed but never forgotten. As he lived life to the fullest, not an ounce of potential was left unspent."

Source: "UT News," 2018, <https://news.utexas.edu/2018/07/29/ut-mourns-the-loss-of-alumnus-frank-denius/>

Below are annotated transcriptions of a 2015 interview with Denius for the National WWII Museum. View full oral history and transcripts at the Digital Collections of the National WWII Museum: <https://www.ww2online.org/view/franklin-frank-denius>

“Early Life and Joining the Army”:

[Annotators Note: Interview begins with the interviewer discussing with Franklin Denius how he should answer questions throughout the interview.] Franklin W. Denius was born on 4 January 1925 and grew up in Athens, Texas. 1 of the primary interests throughout his life is football. Denius was raised by his mother and grandparents. His grandfather had a general store in Athens which is about 75 miles east of Dallas. His grandfather was a good mentor and loved athletics. He took Denius to various sporting events. Denius played football in junior high and high school and even played 1 college game. When Denius was 12 years old his family decided that with the possibility of the United States entering World War 2 he needed the discipline of attending a military school. At the age of 13 Denius was enrolled in the Schreiner Institute in Kerrville, Texas. He graduated from the Schreiner Institute in just 3 and a half years and took 1 year of college there as well. Denius graduated high school on 25 May 1942. He was 17 years old at the time so he volunteered for the Army so he could get a couple semesters of college through a program offered by both the army and navy which would allow those who volunteered before they turned 18 to take 2 semesters of college. Denius was sent to the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina. He began there in late July of 1942 and his second semester ended there in early April 1943 when he was 18 years old. Prior to being called to active duty he was able to go the University of Texas for a short course in May 1943 and took sophomore English. Denius got his orders to report for active duty so he went back to Athens. All of the draftees and reserves who had not yet been called all met on the steps of the courthouse in Athens, Texas for the ride to Mineral Wells [Annotators Note: to Camp Wolters]. On the way the bus Denius was on broke down. They finally got to Camp Wolters where they were processed and officially became members of the military.

Digital Collections of the National WWII Museum: <https://www.ww2online.org/view/franklin-frank-denius#early-life-and-joining-the-army>

“Basic Training and Service Overseas”:

Franklin Denius had taken artillery training in the ROTC at the Citadel and wanted to be in the artillery. He got his wish and was shipped by train to Camp Roberts, California for 17 or 18 weeks of basic training in artillery. He was selected for instrument survey sector of the artillery. This was to prepare him to be a forward observer. He was there until 2 or 3 January 1944 then got a furlough and went home by train to Athens, Texas. About 9 days later he took a train to Houston then on to Fort Meade, Maryland. This was mid January 1944. They trained at Fort Meade then shipped out to Camp Miles Standish which is south of Boston. Camp Miles Standish was the port of embarkation and staging area for troops going overseas. Denius was there for about a week before shipping out of Boston aboard the USS Wakefield. There were about 11000 troops aboard the ship. The trip took about 10 or 11 days then they finally landed in Liverpool, England in late January or 1 February 1944. When they got to England about 30 of them including Denius were selected to go through Ranger training. After Ranger training in late April of 1944 Denius joined the 30th Infantry Division as a forward observer and was assigned to Battery C, 230th Field Artillery Battalion, 30th Infantry Division. [Annotators Note: the interview is briefly interrupted briefly while Denius puts his glasses on a side table.] During the Ranger training in England Denius took infantry training and learned to jump from C-47s. The training was intensive but very beneficial and came in handy during the next year. The Ranger training had lasted about 30 days. Then they did artillery training with the 30th Infantry Division. During that time they got to know the men in their division and prepared for the invasion of Normandy. The only time off they had was for maybe an hour at PX time. Other than that they were on marches and training almost 24 hours a day 7 days a week. They did not get to observe actual artillery fire but Denius had previously done so during basic training back at Camp Roberts [Annotators Note: Camp Roberts, California]. The artillery fire was all simulated. They were introduced maps of the terrain but did not understand the hedgerows as much as they later learned to understand them. The 30th Infantry Division was a very disciplined unit. Every unit within the division had an esprit de corps that was contagious to its members. The 30th Infantry Division was in corps reserve for the D Day invasion. The 115th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division suffered a lot of casualties and lost their artillery during the landings on Omaha Beach. Denius battalion was rushed to ships in the Channel on 6 June and he went ashore at Omaha Beach from an LCI in the early morning hours of 7 June. For the first 6 days the 230th Field Artillery Battalion fought with and supported the 29th Infantry Division. Around D plus 7 or D plus 8 when the 30th Infantry Division was fully landed the 230th Field Artillery Battalion returned to the division. From that point on they supported the 30th Infantry Division except on special occasions when they were sent to support other units during the race across France and through Holland, Belgium, and into Germany.

Digital Collections of the National WWII Museum: <https://www.ww2online.org/view/franklin-frank-denius#basic-training-and-service-overseas>

“Omaha Beach”:

[Annotators Note: this segment begins with the interviewer asking Franklin Denius to give a statement in a certain way.] Denius describes the sector of Omaha Beach he landed on with his radio sergeant and other members of the 30th Infantry Division attached to the 230th Field Artillery Battalion. When he went ashore they saw medic tending to wounded everywhere and sunken ships. The sound of artillery fire and bombers flying overhead added to the incredibly loud noise. Denius landed from an LCI [Annotators Note: Landing Craft, Infantry]. His objective was to get off the beach and up the cliff. They immediately went into positions where they could support the 29th Infantry Division. They had landed before their guns came in. It took a lot of logistics in order to get the guns ashore and into position. Things were hectic but credit needs to be given to the discipline of the soldiers getting things organized all the while under artillery and machine gun fire. In a forward observer party there was usually an officer, a sergeant, even though Denius was not that rank at the time, and a radio operator. They and other forward observers were ordered to report to their respective units of the 29th Infantry Division that they would be supporting. This was not an easy thing as they had to first find the unit then find that unit's commanding officer then decide out how best to set up their artillery team in order to best support that unit with artillery fire once the artillery landed. It was several hours before the artillery came ashore. In the mean time they quickly got acquainted with the terrain, location, and commanding officers of the units they were supporting. No matter which unit they were with or supporting the infantry was always very supportive of the artillery observers throughout the war. They became loyal friends with the infantry in every unit they supported.

Digital Collections of the National WWII Museum: <https://www.ww2online.org/view/franklin-frank-denius#omaha-beach>

“Fighting in the Hedgerows”:

[Annotators Note: segment begins with the interviewer asking Franklin Denius to describe his first moments in Normandy] When they landed in Normandy it was the first time Denius, his radio sergeant, and his officer were ever in combat. Even so they learned very quickly how to survive. In many ways the bombardment of the areas inland from Omaha Beach by the battleships offshore created some craters for them to take cover in even though they did not stay in them for long. They moved out quickly and reached the hedgerow country. From the early part of June [Annotators Note: June 1944] after the invasion until the breakthrough at Saint Lo which began on 24 July they were fighting in the hedgerows. The first town the 30th Infantry Division's 120th Regiment captured with the support of the 230th Field Artillery Battalion was Saint Jean de Daye. They had made a 6 or 7 mile night march behind the lines in order to get into position to jump off in the attack. As an artillery observer Denius had to know the terrain and be able to get into position. He also needed to know how to orient himself so he could direct artillery fire. Denius could not have done this job without the officer and his radio sergeant Sid Goldstein of Ohio who he remains friends with to this day. In June and July of 1944 they encountered hedgerow fighting. The best way to describe the hedgerows is that they were like a farm with a barbed wire fence surrounding it only in Normandy the farm was surrounded by hedgerows. The hedgerows were mountains of dirt and trees that were 75 to 100 yards apart. They would be in 1 hedgerow and the Germans might be in the next hedgerow. The Germans set machine guns up and were in a perfectly defensible position. Another weapon the Germans used effectively in the hedgerows was the mortar. Later on the Germans started digging tanks in. There were trails that ran between the hedgerows that the Germans used to bring their tanks in. Denius quickly figured out the German defensive strategy and how best to call in artillery fire. They were attacking or advancing almost every day. They fired the artillery out in front of the advancing infantry to force the Germans to withdraw. In addition to firing to support advances they also fired behind the enemy lines in an effort to hit German artillery or reserves. It did not take them long to learn in combat. Their primary duty as artillery observers was to protect the infantry and that is what they did their best to do. At night when they were not attacking they would find artillery into locations where they expected the Germans to use to move or launch a counter attack. They would fire 2 types of barrages. They could fire a normal barrage or an emergency barrage. The target locations were already mapped out for the emergency barrages so they would not need to adjust the fire.

Digital Collections of the National WWII Museum: <https://www.ww2online.org/view/franklin-frank-denius#fighting-in-the-hedgerows>

“Saint Lo”:

[Annotators Note: This segment begins with the interviewer asking Franklin Denius to talk about the build up to the breakout from Saint Lo.] After the capture of Saint Jean de Daye in Normandy they started fighting in the hedgerows. If they could take 3 hedgerows a day they considered it a successful day. The defenses were intense. The German soldiers were veterans and some of them were SS troops. They did not always accomplish their missions for the day but they were constantly advancing. It was intense fighting and they suffered a lot of casualties. From Omaha Beach to Saint Jean de Daye the terrain was difficult. They would cross 1 hedgerow right into the German fire coming from the next 1. That is why the artillery and infantry mortars were so important. They were used to break up the German defenses and even killed and wounded some of the German defenders. Once they got 20 to 30 miles inside Normandy there were rivers and towns everywhere and every river was a defensive position that they had to fight their way across. At this point the advance was made mostly by infantry and artillery observers against German tanks, machine guns and all types of defensive weapons. Denius went over 2 months without a bath or being able to maintain the most basic hygiene. At night the quartermaster group would try to get rations up to them. They ate mostly k rations that they could carry on them. Denius carried his rations in his gas mask bag. They were each issued a d ration which was a very hard chocolate candy bar. They could not chew it so Denius would use his bayonet to shave pieces off of it to eat. The day to day fighting in the hedgerows was costing a lot of casualties. While they were fighting in the American sector the Canadians and British were fighting similar battles in their areas to the east of where the 30th Infantry Division was. Denius believes that films depicting village fighting during World War 2 are pretty accurate. When Denius entered these small towns he would climb the steeples of the local churches to get a better view of the terrain so they could call in fire. At the same time the Germans knew that they were doing that and would fire their 88s [Annotators Note: 88 millimeter anti-aircraft and anti-tank artillery piece] at the steeples. Rivers were natural defense barriers. During river crossings the initial crossing had to be made by infantry. The tanks and artillery would cross later. In mid July [Annotators Note: mid July of 1944] they had fought their way to the area of Saint Lo. There they were told that there would be a massive bombing attack. The 230th [Annotators Note: the 230th Field Artillery Battalion was the artillery unit Denius served in] supported the 120th Infantry Regiment. There were 3 regiments in a division and in the 30th Infantry Division there were the 117th Regiment, 119th Regiment, and the 120th Regiment. The unit Denius served in supported all 3 regiments but usually supported the 120th Regiment. On 17 July they began to build up and straighten the American lines. The 30th Infantry Division was a leading element. They got into position to launch the attack that would become known as the Saint Lo Breakout. On 24 July they were visited by General Leslie McNair who was a 3 star general. The general had come forward to observe the preparation for the attack which was to be spearheaded by the 119th Regiment of the 30th Infantry Division. On the early morning of 24 July the troops pulled back from their front line positions about a half to 3 quarters of a mile to give them a little more cushion from the bombers to bomb. When the attack came the next day some of the bombs fell short. General McNair was killed and the 119th Regiment suffered 800 to 900 casualties as a result of those bombs falling short. Denius was in a foxhole about 50 or 75 yards away from where General McNair was when he was hit. The units regrouped and the 120th Regiment pushed through on the night of 24 July. The following day the bombers returned. There were over 3000 bombers and they dropped their bombs within about 3 miles of them. The 29th Division was to the west of Denius and the 30th Division and they all jumped off after the bombing. When the bombing was over they [Annotators Note: the ground forces] jumped off in the attack. They also directed artillery to support the 120th. They were able to break through the front lines at Saint Lo. The town of Saint Lo was completely destroyed by bombing and artillery. The breakthrough gave General Patton's Third Army the opportunity to make their end run around the German lines south and drive their tanks deeper into France. Patton's tank units were quickly able to penetrate 15 to 20 miles.

Digital Collections of the National WWII Museum: <https://www.ww2online.org/view/franklin-frank-denius#saint-lo>

“His First Silver Star:”

[Annotators Note: Franklin Denius was an artillery forward observer in Battery C, 230th Field Artillery Battalion, 30th Infantry Division.] After the breakthrough they held their positions to protect Patton's flanks. They were on the east side of the breakthrough and the 29th Division was on the west side. The 1st Division was even further west. About a week before the Saint Lo breakthrough they were engaged in a battle that would enable them to get into position for the Saint Lo breakthrough. Denius was with the 2nd Battalion of the 120th Regiment. The officer leading the party, the radio sergeant, and Denius were unable to see where the crossfire and some German artillery were located in front of them. Geographically they were located about 2 thirds of the way between Saint Jean de Daye and Saint Lo. The only way they could tell exactly where the German machine gun and dug in tank fire was coming from was for the 3 of them to crawl out in advance of the infantry unit to see better. As they were crawling out to that area a German machine gun opened fire killing the officer Denius was with. The officer was about 2 feet in front of Denius when this happened. Denius decided that since he was already there he would call in and adjust artillery fire. They did not have their guns pre set here so Denius had to call in several rounds and direct it so he could zero it in on where he believed the German machine guns and tanks to be. To do so he had to expose himself. He did so and was successful in knocking out the enemy positions in that area. After that Denius and his radio sergeant returned to the lines and the infantry moved out. About 2 weeks later Denius got orders to report to corps headquarters where he was awarded the Silver Star [Annotators Note: for his service during the war Denius would earn a total of 4 Silver Star Medals] and promoted from corporal to buck sergeant. It was an honor but Denius believes that he could not have accomplished what he did as a forward observer without his radio sergeant Goldstein [Annotators Note: US Army Sergeant Sid Goldstein]. In September of 2005 Denius and Goldstein met for dinner. They had spoken on the phone over the years but it was the first time they had seen each other since May of 1945. On 24 and 25 July [Annotators Note: 24 and 25 July 1944] there was a massive carpet bombing. The infantry and artillery observers had seen a lot of gunfire and explosions but they could not envision having thousands of bombs exploding in front of them. Seeing those explosions desensitized the American soldiers but they had no idea of how the bombing would aid or impede their advance because of the craters. The sound of the blasts was deafening. They were immediately able to get their troops together and start the attack right after the bombing. Denius called in artillery fire on the areas he thought the bombs may not have been successful. As an observer Denius never elected not to fire artillery in front of advancing units. He felt that it was their job as artillery to protect the infantry. They laid down artillery barrages in front of the infantry constantly. They protected the infantry and they protected the success of their attack. Denius jokingly states that he crawled during the break out from Saint Lo. As the advance moved out of Saint Lo through the area that had been bombed Denius saw that everything was demolished. It was full of bomb holes and everything above ground was killed or destroyed. The whole area looked like a no mans land completely devoid of life of any kind. They were on guard when they reached the German side. The Germans had pulled back in shock and there was some surrendering but as a combat team Denius and his unit did not manage the prisoners. They sent any prisoners to the rear. They continued their attack. Their objective was to get into position to defend Patton's breakthrough then supply route which followed the advancing armor.

Digital Collections of the National WWII Museum: <https://www.ww2online.org/view/franklin-frank-denius>

“Mortain”:

[Annotators Note: Franklin Denius was an artillery forward observer in Battery C, 230th Field Artillery Battalion, 30th Infantry Division]After the break through at Saint Lo on the 25th [Annotators Note: 25 July 1944] they spent the next 5 days in defensive positions protecting Pattons lifeline. The 30th Division was pulled off the front line and treated the division to a USO show. 2 of the performers were Dinah Shore and an actor. Denius got a kiss on the cheek from Dinah Shore. His friends teased him. For the first time in over 2 months Denius had been able to brush his teeth, get a shower, and put on some clean socks. When his friends asked him if he liked getting the kiss from Dinah Shore better than the shower he said that it was a tie.After they got replacements and supplies and refitted the artillery they moved west to their next objective which was the town of Mortain where they arrived on 6 August. The position they moved into had been held by the 1st Infantry Division. Around noon on the day they went into their positions Denius marched up a hill with his radio sergeant and the officer from his observer party along with a company commander from the 2nd Battalion, 120th Regiment. The hill was just n the east side of Mortain and the 1st Division guys who had been in fox holes there told them that they had not seen a German or fired a shot in the last 5 or 6 days so it should be peaceful.About 690 men marched up Hill 314 which was so called because it was 314 meters above sea level.Mortain was a resort town. Denius and the soldiers with him did not go into the town itself. They dug in their positions on the hill. The lieutenant with Denius was on his first combat role. He had joined the battery as a replacement for the officer who was killed back in early July and had not been in combat before. Denius and the lieutenant went with the infantry commander to scout the areas they believed they may face counter attacks from.Hill 314 is the highest point in Western France. There were no buildings on the hill except for the remains of a petite chapel which were on the south side of the hill.The group Denius was with reconnoitered the area. There was also another forward observer party on the hill with them in addition to most of 3 infantry companies and others attached units of the 30th Division that were with them.The location they were in was an artillery observers dream. They could see 360 degrees around. With visibility like that there was no way that an artillery observer could not see the enemy approaching or attacking.The likely directions of attack were limited so they scouted them with the infantry lieutenant.The hill was covered with trees and the potential avenues of attack were limited. 1 of the likely attack routes was a road that came up from the middle of the town of Mortain on the north side of the hill. Denius set up his position to look to the south and east halves of the hill and the other forward observer party set up on the other side of the hill.They got the entire area sighted in and set up a number of emergency and normal barrages. They scouted about half of Hill 314 with pre arranged barrages.

Digital Collections of the National WWII Museum: <https://www.ww2online.org/view/franklin-frank-denius#mortain>

“Hill 314”:

[Annotators Note: Franklin Denius was an artillery forward observer in Battery C, 230th Field Artillery Battalion, 30th Infantry Division. This segment begins with Denius talking about his position on top of Hill 314.]Late that afternoon [Annotators Note: 6 August 1944] they began hearing German trucks and could see infantry unloading. They also saw tanks arriving within a mile of the bottom of the hill. When the opportune time came they began calling artillery fire in on the enemy positions. They were successful in knocking out a number of the German units but there fire also gave away their positions on the hill.In addition to the men on top of Hill 314 the 117th Regiment and 119th Regiment with their attached artillery and engineers were on each side of the hill. The terrain in the area determined the location of those units and they went into defensive positions as best they could.There were just under 700 men on top of the hill that went into position that afternoon of 6 August 1944.Even before dark the German air force flew over and strafed them. It was the first time in several weeks that they had seen elements of the German Air Force, the Luftwaffe.Division had laid wire communications to them on top of the hill in addition to the radios. The radios they used were called 509s and were 2 part units. The battery pack was half of the unit and weighed about 55 pounds by itself. The radio itself was carried by the radio sergeant and weighed about 50 pounds. The radio had to be bolted to the battery and an antenna run up before the unit could be used. It was not like a cell phone.They set up a foxhole right on the front lines next to a 30 caliber air cooled machine gun.On the morning of 7 August there was a lot of fog. The German Air Force came over and the Germans attacked en masse up Hill 314. That started the battle that would continue 24 7 for the next 6 and a half days. By the afternoon of 7 August they were completely surrounded by the German forces. The Germans had 5 panzer divisions and 70000 infantry. The Germans wanted to capture Hill 314 because as long as the hill was in American hands the supply lines to Pattons Third Army could be protected. The hill was very important and on 6 August Eisenhower radioed them to tell them to hold the hill at all cost.During the battle Denius was able to call in and direct not only the howitzers of the 230th Field Artillery Battalion but from the division artillery and corps artillery. While Denius called in artillery on his side of the hill the other observer party was calling in artillery on the other side. During the battle the lieutenant with Denius became incapacitated leaving only Denius and his radio sergeant Sherman Goldstein to call in artillery. The Germans were right in front of their positions and Denius and Goldstein took part in a lot of hand to hand fighting.Denius and his radio sergeant were able to get about 75 to 100 yards behind to the company commanders command post. That way they were constantly with the company commander and able to call in artillery whenever an attack came. The artillery barrages were already pre set so Denius only needed to give the emergency barrage number. They did not need to adjust the fire at all. Because of this they were able to successfully defend Hill 314 that first day of the battle.After they had been on the hill for 2 days their radio batteries began to get low. By using the emergency barrages they were able to shorten the time that they had to be on the radio.The Germans were experienced fighters and their SS division was very experienced. Because of this Denius had to adjust the artillery fire onto where the Germans were mounting their attacks. Later on Denius had to direct the artillery fire on the German tanks and supply lines. This went on day and night.The American troops were suffering a lot of casualties. Denius gives a lot of credit to the medics who did their best to care for the wounded.When they were in combat they were totally immersed in what they were doing and gave no consideration to anything else. They were only concerned with their fellow soldiers and accomplishing their mission. Denius has tried to do this in his civilian life but has been unable to.The most important thing for Franklin Denius as an artillery observer on 314 [Annotators Note: Hill 314] was communication. When the batteries for the radio died they would no longer be effective in preserving the defense of Hill 314 so they did everything they could to extend the life of the batteries.Another concern was whether or not the Germans would encircle them and attack from all angles and make it impossible for them to hold their positions.On the third day the Germans sent a white flag group to Hill 314. The Germans were waved up but were stopped mid way up the hill and were not shown the American positions. The Germans congratulated the Americans on their bravery but stated that they were going to launch and all out attack on the hill if the Americans did not surrender. A company commander on the hill declined the Germans surrender demands and the Germans returned to their positions and the battle resumed. True to their word the Germans launched an all out attack in all areas around the hill. After about 7 or 8 hours of fierce fighting the German attack was defeated around midnight. The Americans continued to hold Hill 314.

Digital Collections of the National WWII Museum: <https://www.ww2online.org/view/franklin-frank-denius#hill-314>

“Winning the Battle for Hill 314”:

[Annotators Note: Franklin Denius was an artillery forward observer in Battery C, 230th Field Artillery Battalion, 30th Infantry Division. This segment begins with Denius talking about the battle for Hill 314.]The attacks by the Germans were constant but usually in the afternoon or early morning. In the afternoon of the fifth day the Germans began an all out attack that was defeated by infantry and artillery fire. This attack was not as prolonged as the attacks of the previous days. Denius feels that the Germans had realized by that time that they would not be able to take the hill. After 6 and a half days the Germans began to withdraw. They could be seen withdrawing their trucks and artillery and even their tanks. All during the withdrawal they continued to fire on the dug in Americans. Denius and the other soldiers on the hill did not know at the time that the Germans were leaving. They thought the Germans were regrouping for another attack. Also by this time the 119th Infantry Division [Annotators Note: 119th Infantry Regiment] as well as elements of the 35th Division had arrived on the hill. The artillery Denius called in during the fighting for Hill 314 was located some 10 to 15 miles behind the lines. On top of 314 there were 2 forward observers. Denius gives a lot of credit to the other observer team. They were doing the same thing on their side of the hill that Denius and his radio sergeant were doing on their side. The difficult thing about defending infantry positions is how close in they could bring in the artillery. Even though the artillery howitzers were very accurate it was located 9 to 12 miles away and there could be some short rounds. Denius had to be particularly careful calling in artillery because of their location but he did the best he could. They were running out of food, ammunition, and batteries. On the third or fourth day Air Force [Annotators Note: US Army Air Forces] C47 supply planes flew over and dropped thousands of parachutes with ammunition, medicine and batteries. The German antiaircraft guns surrounding the hill forced the planes to fly extremely high and a lot of the supplies drifted away. They were able to recover some of the supplies but much of what was dropped ended up in the hands of the Germans. The American troops did get some medicine and ammunition but did not get and batteries for their artillery radios. Denius and his radio sergeant decided to set the batteries out in the sun the day and were happy to see that by doing this they could get 6 to 8 minutes of battery life doing this. The cut off units were in such desperate need of medicine that propaganda shells were packed with cotton and medical supplies and fired into the American perimeter. Denius called in much of these shells. Even though this method of resupplying cut off troops was considered unsuccessful Denius saw firsthand the look of relief on the faces of many of the wounded men on that hill.

Digital Collections of the National WWII Museum: <https://www.ww2online.org/view/franklin-frank-denius#winning-the-battle-for-hill-314>

“Fighting Across France”:

After the fighting in the Paris area Franklin Denius and his unit boarded trucks and travelled north of Paris. The British were on the northern edge. They passed through World War 1 towns but did not encounter any Germans. It was not until they got into Holland that they started running into enemy troops fighting delaying actions. They fought their way to the tip of Holland then into Germany where they went into positions to break through the Siegfried Line. After breaking through the Siegfried Line they started veering right. During the advance the 1st Division was on their right. They surrounded and fought their way all the way around Aachen. There was severe fighting in the forests like in the Hurtgen Forest. Denius was not in the Hurtgen Forest. They were on the outskirts of it. On 16 December [Annotators Note: 16 December 1944] Denius was sent back to division headquarters with his units quartering party. When they passed through Aachen they got strafed and bombed. Then they went through Malmedy where the massacre was and the fight against Peiper [Annotators Note: German SS Colonel Joachim Peiper]. Several days after the battle of Mortain Sergeant Goldstein and Denius were notified that they were being awarded the Silver Star for what they had done during the battle. Several months later they were informed that the 2nd Battalion of the 120th Regiment was being awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. Goldstein and Denius were attached to the 120th Regiment during the battle so they got the award as well. The 30th Division developed into 1 of the finest fighting units in the American Army in the European Theater of Operations. The confidence of the higher command was established during the hedgerow fighting and Denius believes that this confidence is why the 30th Division was selected as a spearheading unit for the Saint Lo breakout. Following the battle of Mortain around 12 or 14 August 1944 the division was reassembled and regrouped then began the job of protecting either the western or southern flank of Patton's Third Army. Within a few days of the ending of the battle for 314 [Annotators Note: Hill 314 outside of Mortain, France] they began attacking eastward. They fought their way through France protecting the left flank of Patton's Third Army all the way to the battle of the Falaise Gap. They linked up with the British and Canadians at the town of Falaise where the Germans had lost or surrendered over 50000 troops and were in full retreat. The Falaise Gap is historically recognized as the merger of the Third Army and First Army to the south and the British and Canadian Army forcing its way to the north. The purpose of this was to trap and surround as many German troops as possible.

Digital Collections of the National WWII Museum: <https://www.ww2online.org/view/franklin-frank-denius#fighting-across-france>

“Liberation of Paris”:

[Annotators Note: Franklin Denius was an artillery forward observer in Battery C, 230th Field Artillery Battalion, 30th Infantry Division] Following the closing of the Falaise Gap the German Army was in substantial retreat back to Germany but there were remnants that fought scattered battles against the advancing Americans. The 30th Division assembled 25 to 30 miles north of Paris where they were to protect against a possible German counterattack. Around 24, 25, or 26 August [Annotators Note: August of 1944] the French First Army under General DeGaulle moved into and liberated Paris. After the Germans retreated back into Germany the men in Denius division were able to relax a little. They still had perimeter detail and spent the time regrouping, cleaning themselves and their trucks, and getting their ammunition stored properly. They were preparing to move to the east toward Belgium. At about this time it was announced that the new Ninth American Army had arrived in France. The new Ninth Army started out with the old 30th Division. Over the following weeks they were able to move further east to start their next series of actions.

Digital Collections of the National WWII Museum: <https://www.ww2online.org/view/franklin-frank-denius#liberation-of-paris>

“French Civilians and Combat Awards”:

[Annotators Note: Franklin Denius was an artillery forward observer in Battery C, 230th Field Artillery Battalion, 30th Infantry Division] The French people had pretty much evacuated Normandy. As the Americans advanced inland toward Mortain they encountered more civilians who hid in safe places during the fighting. As they advanced into the areas that had been battlegrounds during World War 1 they were greeted by people throwing flowers and giving them wine and pies. The only problem Denius had was that he was carrying a radio and a rifle and was unable to accept all of the hospitality but he did get some great apple pie. As they moved through the towns in Northern France the people were gleeful that they had been liberated. It was a wonderful experience for Denius to see that even though he was up front with the combat troops and thinks that the rear area troops were the ones who truly enjoyed the appreciation shown by the newly liberated French civilians. Denius was wounded and received the Purple Heart on 2 occasions. In Normandy he received a flesh wound and was patched up by a medic. Later on in January during the Battle of the Bulge he was hit by rocket shell fragments in addition to suffering from frozen feet. His third Silver Star was awarded during the Battle of the Bulge during late December [Annotators Note: December of 1944] or early January [Annotators Note: January of 1945]. His fourth Silver Star was awarded on 25 January when he was wounded.

Digital Collections of the National WWII Museum: <https://www.ww2online.org/view/franklin-frank-denius#french-civilians-and-combat-awards>

“Education and Training”:

Franklin Denius originally volunteered for service because he had already taken 4 of ROTC [Annotators Note: Reserve Officer Training Corps]. 3 and a half years in high school and a semester in college. He was a cadet officer at Schreiner [Annotators Note: Schreiner Institute in Kerrville, Texas] his senior year and had the privilege of being the president of his senior class in high school. The war was clearly raging and Denius thought that he could join the army program which would allow him to further his education. He could do this because he was only 17 at the time and too young to be called to active duty. The navy had a similar program but Denius chose the army. Denius entered the Citadel in late July of 1942 and completed 2 more semesters of college before he entered the service. This benefited Denius because when he returned to the United States in October of 1945 and was discharged from the service he was able to start classes at the University of Texas at the age of 20 years old. Denius had selected the army program because of his prior ROTC training and felt that he could better serve his country this way. He was also very intent on training in the artillery. Being a loyal Texan and American Franklin Denius felt that it was his duty to fight for his country. He did not fight for mom and apple pie. He fought for his buddies and for his objective. Denius loves his country and loves his state and takes pride in the fact that this country has historically been able to help others obtain freedom.

Digital Collections of the National WWII Museum: <https://www.ww2online.org/view/franklin-frank-denius#education-and-training>

New Officers Chosen By Centex Architects

J. Roy White was elected 1961 president of the Central Texas Chapter, American Institute of Architects at a meeting this week at the Austin Engineers and Associates Building.

Other new officers who will be installed in January, 1961 are John Chiles Allen, vice president; Richard P. Swallow, treasurer; Robert P. Landes, secretary; and George M. Page, director and representative to the Texas Society of Architects.

Philip D. Creer, current presi-

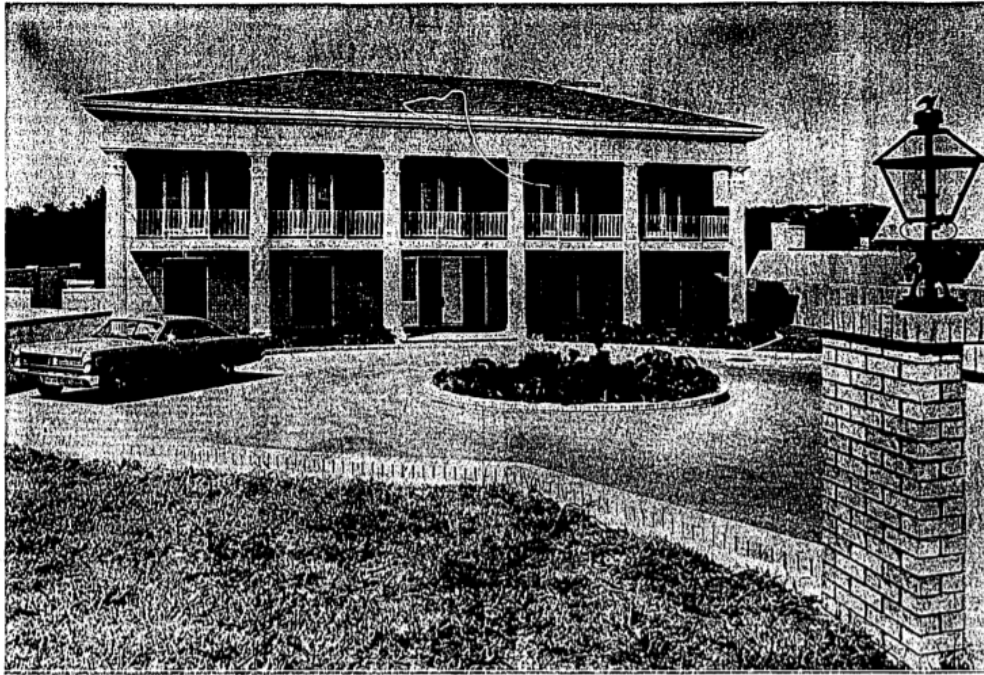
dent, will remain on the executive committee.

At the meeting, local architects hear recommendations from representatives of the Mechanical Contractors of Austin for changes in plan and specifications.

The recommendations were referred to a committee headed by Howard R. Barr which will work with a committee from the Association of General Contractors to work out changes.

Hosts at the meeting were members of the firm Allen, Coates and Legge.

The Austin American (1914-1973); Oct 16, 1960



CONTEMPORARY HOME OF FRANK DENIUS FAMILY IS REMINISCENT OF AUSTIN'S EARLY GREEK REVIVAL TREND
Two-story colonnaded portico has huge fluted white pillars topped with ornate "Temple of the winds" capitals

Gracious and Ante-Bellum Mood

Home Editor

A long time in the planning, the beautiful new home of the Frank W. Denius family at 3707 Meadowbank reflects the gracious living and warm hospitality for which it was intended.

Indeed, its air of Southern hospitality begins at the front of the ante-bellum house, where brick pillars, topped with Colonial style black wrought iron lamps, frame the entrance to the grounds and a wide sweeping circular driveway designed for the convenience of guests.

The family driveway is located on Taylors Street at the back of the property and leads to the kitchen entrance. A third thoroughfare, Scenic Drive, also borders one side of the wedge-shaped grounds that are enclosed with an attractive brick fence to match the house.

In striking contrast to the structure's soft beige-pink brick are its two-story white fluted colonnades, white window trim and black louvered shutters. The shutters are used on the wide white front door, which is flanked with a pair of elegant antique brass carriage lamps, on the floor length windows downstairs and on the French doors across the front upstairs. These doors open from bedrooms onto the full-length white wrought iron enclosed veranda.

There are numerous unusual architectural features in this house, but the architect who designed it, George Page of Page-Southerland-Page, thinks the circular stairway in the large entrance hall is the most outstanding interior feature. It is hung from the room's circular back wall, free and clear of any visible support. An exquisite crystal chandelier is suspended from the second floor ceiling with the long chain covered in pale blue velvet to match the hall's blue and white wallpaper.

In the wing at the right of the hall is the living room with its elegant French style

furnishings and pink-blue-white decor. A door leads to the adjacent office of Mr. Denius, which also opens to the hall, making for easy circulating of guests when the family is entertaining.

In the wing to the left of the central hall is a formal dining room, where French decor also prevails. The color scheme is pink with cerise accent, off-white and gold. The floor here, as throughout the house, is covered in wall-to-wall off-white carpeting.

Exception to this is the kitchen immediately back of the dining room and almost as large. Mrs. Denius said, "If I had a hobby it would be cooking. My kitchen is my favorite room and I spend more time here than in any other room in the house."

The all-gas kitchen is cheerful and inviting, with walls and cabinets of Philippine mahogany finished in a warm walnut tone. Gay window curtains and colorful wallpaper above the cabinets are a bright note. A generous size side-by-side deep freeze and refrigerator add to the room's convenient working facilities.

Another exception is the floor of the den; the room to which everyone gravitates, from guests to the family, that includes Mr. and Mrs. Denius, their 15-year old son Frank Jr., better known as Waffle, and his sister, 11, who bears her mother's name, Charmaine.

Handsome Ludowici tile was used in this elongated room opening off the entrance hall. Sliding glass panels across the outer wall of the combination den and breakfast area provides a magnificent view. Overlooking the classic swimming pool, with its scaled down fluted columns at each corner, the view of Lake Austin and the encircling hills beyond is an ever-changing "picture" to enjoy. Statuary in small garden areas flank the pool, and the columns await arrival of the four seasons statues that will top them.

(See continued inside)

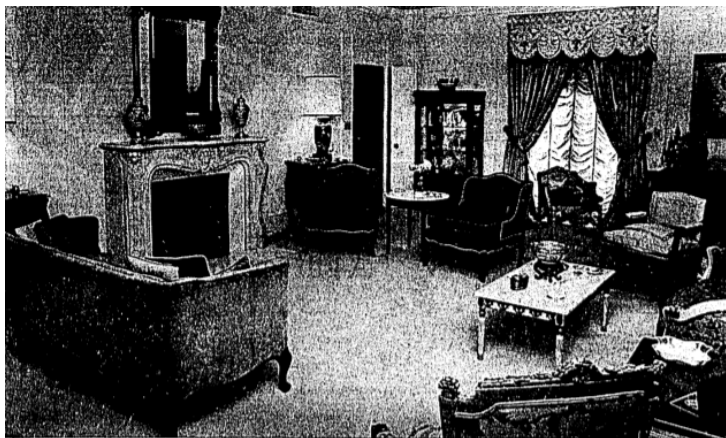
Photographs by Karl Kramer of the American-Statesman/UPI Staff



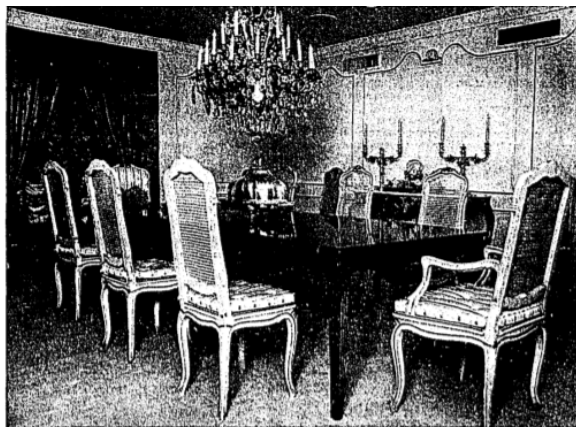
ORANGE VELVET SOFA CUES COLOR THEME OF MR. DENIUS' OFFICE
Ormolu trimmed desk is authentic copy of an original antique



MRS. DENIUS IS IN THE DEN WHICH OVERLOOKS THE CLASSIC DESIGN SWIMMING POOL
Orange-to-red pattern gold rug complements floor of Moorish design Ludowici tile



PREDOMINATELY FRENCH IN DECOR, LIVING ROOM'S FOCAL POINT IS THE ANTIQUE MARBLE FIREPLACE
Sevres, Meissen, Dresden, Oriental objects-of-art key the room's subtle blue, pink-white theme



ANTIQUÉ CHANDELIER, HEIRLOOM SILVER ENHANCES THE FORMAL DINING ROOM
Cerise trimmed pink draperies over Austrian shades pick up striped cushion tones

A Home for Any Era

(Continued from Page 1)

Part of the Denius home's charm is its color scheme — colors so subtly employed as to be almost a feeling rather than a visible aspect of the rooms:

In the living room the off-white carpeting and paneled walls subdue the floor length windows where deep pink draperies are accented with blue fringe and complemented with brocade valances and pale pink Austrian shades.

Draped in the same fashion is a French door opening from the end of the room on to a small brick-walled formal garden, yet to be landscaped. The same French door and garden treatment was designed for the dining room, opposite the entrance hall.

The most striking feature of the living room is its handsome antique marble

fireplace mantel, which Mrs. Denius explained was purchased nearly two years before they built the house. The San Antonio firm stored the mantel until it was needed. Many objects of similar significance were collected before the family started building.

But, Mrs. Denius said that most of the furnishings were from their former home. Among these are some treasured family heirlooms. A lovely French sofa with blue and beige brocade velvet upholstery in the living room was a gift from Mr. Denius' aunt and uncle, who also gave them a fine antique vitrine. This beautiful case has a mirrored back, to which a pair of Sevres sconces had been attached. Not old, but duly treasured, is the

inaugural bowl on top of the vitrine. It is from the Kennedy-Johnson inaugural ball, the first presidential inauguration Mr. and Mrs. Denius had attended.

Bright accent pieces are French provincial low wing chairs in red that are part of a fireplace conversational grouping, along with a soft green velvet sofa. Louis XV style chairs, a marble top Louis XIV coffee table and a pair of marble top commodes which flank the fireplace and hold matching Oriental porcelain lamps.

A lovely grand piano is also among the room's furnishings. Lending a note of elegance and color are many Sevres, Meissen and Oriental porcelain objects of art, including a Chinese garden stool in blue, pink and yellow, used as a chairside coffee table.

In the formal dining room the gracefully curved panel moldings are delicately trimmed with gold. The Louis XV style chairs are antique white with pink and gold trim, cushioned in multi-pink stripes. Above the Louis XVI walnut table is a magnificent 20-light crystal and gold doré chandelier that Mrs. Denius discovered at Manheim's in Dallas.

Decorative as well as functional are the many antique silver appointments which were wedding gifts

from members of the family.

Among these are a covered turkey platter with warming unit, a full tea service with tray and a pair of silver candelabra. Another gift from Mr. Denius' aunt and uncle was the 18th century mahogany server in the dining room.

Windows and French door here have pale pink Austrian shades, deeper pink draperies and valences trimmed in cerise.

A unique feature of the dining room is its spacious built-in storage cupboards — two on each end wall — that can accommodate the largest of trays or tall serving objects. Two of the cupboards are completely lined with Pacific cloth, like that used in silver chests. The other two are to be lined later.

Mrs. Denius was generous in her praise of Frank Selek, well-known contractor who took so much pride in the workmanship that went into this home, as in many other Austin homes through the years, including work on restoration of the Pease Mansion.

Named "Best Dressed" because of her fine fashion sense, Mrs. Denius' excellent taste also extends to her home. Although the interior was done by Newton Wilds and Bob Cannon, interior designers, her own decorating ideas are reflected throughout

the house.

She and her family prefer paintings with a personal significance, such as the massive oil in the den, painted by Polsky Morgan and given by a friend to Mr. Denius who is a staunch UT Longhorn supporter. The painting of UT football players is in shades of orange. Orange is also the color scheme for his handsome walnut paneled office and for Woffie's bedroom.

On the breakfast area wall at the other end of the den is an original Paris street scene painted by another friend, Fred Sharp.

An antique chandelier with sculptured metal branches and leaves and crystal fruit

hangs above the pink and antique white French provincial breakfast table and matching chairs. A similar chandelier, but much smaller, hangs in the downstairs guest powder room.

Family portraits done in pastels this summer at Santa Fe by sketch artists hang in the office, where there are also a ranch photograph of President Johnson

autographed to "Charmaine and Frank Denius" and one

from Jake Pickle, both friends.

Pastels of the children done nine years ago in Santa Fe hang in the upper hallway that overlooks the open circular stairs.

All bedrooms are on the second floor. The master bedroom, bath and individual dressing rooms occupy one wing. A cozy fireplace, comfortable red chairs and pink draperies enhance the large room which opens on to

the front veranda.

An original watercolor in this room is also quite special: painted by George

Page while he was vacationing in Crete, it is of the Palace Knossos, a famous architectural ruin.

A Study in Orange and White

By CANDY LOWRY
Women's Staff

The home study of attorney Frank Denius tells a lot about the man himself.

Three autographed national championship footballs, an orange and white decor in the library itself and a frame picture of Coach Darrell Royal hint at an avid football fan.

And a shadowbox of medals, a silver star, a Purple Heart and a Presidential Citation indicate a long and honorably

served term in the Armed Forces.

Denius, a staff sergeant during World War II, was a member of those first American troops who landed at Omaha Beach and who subsequently made their way across France and into Belgium.

So it's not difficult to understand why so many books in his library are about the strategy used in the war. He is particularly proud of the autographed "Crusade

Through Europe" written by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

One reason Frank Denius wanted a study was so he would have a place all his own. "I wanted a room filled with the things I liked," he explained. "—A place I could fix up without consulting anybody."

The room is high-ceilinged and paneled with a white carpet and curtains and furnished in some shade of Longhorn orange.

Above the couch, which is orange velvet, hang the four family portraits. The chair which sits in front of the game of football chess is done in an elegant orange and white stripe.

His attractive wife, Charmaine, has needlepointed pillows for the room, one of the State Seal of Texas, another of the UT Tower.

One of the most interesting things on the library shelves are two electric trains, one a standard gauge and the other, an O-7-2. Trains have been a passion of Frank Denius' since he was a small child and these models, two of his favorites, were sent to a New York railroad model store for a new paint job and overhaul.

Besides history and strategy books on WWII, the library has shelves filled with sports books.

"You know, I got the football fever mighty young. I guess I started going to games with my grandfather

when I was two. Haven't missed but two of the Longhorn games since 1945 either," said the man, who enjoys reading about the game when he's not watching it.

He also enjoys books about U.S. presidents and has an especially interesting collection of volumes about Theodore Roosevelt, one of this country's most colorful leaders.

Contemporary political figures interest Frank Denius too, as the books and the autographed and framed pictures of former Pres. Johnson and Rep. J. "Jake" Pickle indicate.

But what Frank Denius' orange and white library really shows is a lot about the man himself and the hobbies that he enjoys most.



STUDY IS BRIGHT ORANGE AND WHITE
Paneled walls provide nice accent

The Austin Statesman, July 11, 1971

Page Southerland Page, LLP of Austin



Page Southerland Page's earliest roots in Texas began in 1886 when Charles Henry Page moved his young family from St. Louis, Missouri to Austin to work as a stonemason on the construction of the new Texas State Capitol building. In 1898, Page's oldest son, Charles Henry (Jr.) opened the architectural firm of C.H. Page, Jr., to be joined shortly thereafter by his younger brother Louis as C.H. Page and Bro. -- which would later become known as Page Brothers. Page Brothers would quickly emerge as one of the preeminent architectural practices in Texas with the commission for the Texas Pavilion at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. The firm was prominent in the transition from late 19th century eclecticism, through an expressive classicism in the 1910's, to the period of modernism. The firm became one of the state's leading firms specializing in public projects such as schools and courthouses. Its works extended across Texas and included such significant projects as the Smith County Courthouse (1910), the Littlefield Building in downtown Austin (1918), the Hunt County Courthouse (1928), the Travis County Courthouse

(1929), and the Austin National Bank (1930, razed 1956) at 513 Congress Avenue.

In 1932, Louis' son Louis C. Page, Jr. and MIT Classmate Louis F. Southerland established the office of Page & Southerland in Tyler, Texas following the largest oil boom in Texas History at that time. With the death of Louis Page Sr. in 1934, in 1935 Page & Southerland relocated to Austin to continue his side of the Page Brothers practice while Charles Henry's son joined his father and changed the name of Page Brothers to C.H. Page & Son. C.H. Page & Son would continue its practice in Austin being responsible for such notable projects as the United States Federal Courthouse (1935) and Centennial Floors at the Texas State Capitol. After the death of C. H. Sr. in 1957, Charles Henry, Jr. continued to practice for several years until closing its doors in the early 1960's.

In 1939, Louis Page's brother, George, returned from military service and joined the Page & Southerland practice -- expanding the firm's name to Page Southerland & Page. It is through the vision and foresight of these early founders that Page Southerland & Page adopted a model of transition in ownership and leadership that would allow the firm to continue to build across generations in evolving into one of the Nation's largest and most diversified international architectural and engineering practices.



- Building off of the cornerstones put in place by the Page Brothers firm, Page Southerland & Page's early commissions included such significant landmarks on Austin's skyline today as the Tribune Building located at across from the Governor's mansion in Austin.

- In 1940, the firm took its first step in diversifying its practice through the award for the design for the original Brackenridge Hospital in Austin which would be its initial foray into the area of healthcare design – a specialty in which the firm is now a world leader.
- In 1948, the firm added mechanical, electrical and structural engineering to its services – becoming one of the Nation's first integrated architectural and engineering design firms.
- From 1956-1957, Page Southerland & Page served as Consulting Architect for the University of Texas at Austin. Since that time, the firm has worked at nine of the UT System campuses and over 30 Higher Education Institutions. Within the last 10 years alone, the firm has been responsible for the design of over 3 million SF for the UT System and is currently involved in the Master Planning for the University of Texas at Austin campus and adjacent newly formed Medical District.
- Recognizing the growing importance of building strategic partnerships as a tool for tackling complex projects, from 1956 through 1965 Page Southerland & Page worked with other firms to produce such significant projects as the Austin Federal Building and Courthouse, the Texas Supreme Court building, the United States Embassy in Mexico City, and Austin's Palmer Auditorium.
- In 1961, the firm received the commission to master plan and design IBM's new Office Products Division campus in North Austin. Building off of this initial commission, the firm expanded its capabilities into Science and Technology where it is now a national leader in such fields as microelectronics, data centers, energy, and biotechnology for a wide range of the nation's leading academic and corporate clients. Most recently, the firm was responsible for the design of Samsung's 1.6 million SF Austin Semiconductor Fab A2 – as well as a number of the nation's largest data centers working with clients such as Hewlett Packard, Bank of America, HCA and United Airlines.
- In 1974, Page Southerland Page enhanced its ability to serve clients throughout Texas by opening full-services offices in Dallas and Houston. Today, both offices are located in newly renovated downtown bank lobbies and are each actively involved in revitalization of downtown districts. The firm's Houston office is a leader in the energy sector working globally with such clients as ExxonMobil, ADNOC and ARAMCO – while having been responsible for such significant new local projects as the Discovery Green Park in downtown Houston and new University of Houston Football Stadium. Dallas has focused primarily on the Advanced Technology and Healthcare fields having worked with Texas Instruments for over 25 years and been responsible for many of the firm's largest national / international healthcare projects.
- In 1978, the firm was awarded the design for the Royal Navy Hospital in Jubail, Saudi Arabia. Since then, Page Southerland Page had expanded its international practice to over 60 foreign countries with current and recent projects located in Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the United Kingdom, Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, the Far East, Australia and the Pacific Rim. The firm currently has international presences in London, UK; Doha, Qatar, Kuwait City, Kuwait, and Abu Dhabi, UAE – together with emerging presences in China and India.

Source: Texas Historical Commission, <http://www.thc.texas.gov/page-southerland-page-llp-austin>

Page Southerland Page Records and Drawings

An Inventory of the Collection

Collection Summary

Creator:	Page Southerland Page
Title:	Page Southerland Page Records and Drawings
Dates:	1935-1982
Dates (Bulk):	1935-1969
Abstract:	Page Southerland Page is an Austin, Texas architectural firm that was originally formed as Page Southerland in 1932 by Louis Page, Jr. and Louis F. Southerland. Louis Page's brother, George Matthew Page, joined the firm in 1939 and the name was changed to Page Southerland Page. The majority of the collection consists of architectural drawings dating from 1935 to 1982.
Accession number:	AR.2009.030
Quantity:	.2 linear feet (1 text box; 8 flat file drawers; 3077 drawings)
Location:	Architectural archives stacks and flat file drawers, Archt qAR, Artifacts
Language:	English
Repository:	Austin History Center, Austin Public Library , 810 Guadalupe, PO Box 2287, Austin, TX 78768

Administrative History

Louis Charles Page Jr. (1909-1981) was born in Austin, Texas. The son of the architect Louis Page, Page Jr. followed in his father's footsteps and graduated from The University of Texas School of Architecture (1929) and MIT (1931). After graduation he spent a summer in the architectural program in Fontainebleau and then returned to Austin and interned briefly at this father's firm Page Brothers before opening up an office with Louis Southerland.

Louis F. Southerland (1906-1994) grew up in Trenton, Texas and also studied architecture at The University of Texas before transferring to MIT, where he received his bachelor's degree in architecture (1932).

Page and Southerland opened their firm in Tyler, Texas because the town was in the midst of an oil boom. Unfortunately, according to a 1947 interview with Southerland in the *Austin Statesman*, the people in Tyler were not spending the oil money on buildings. Page returned to Austin to teach at the University of Texas School of Architecture and Southerland moved to San Antonio to work on the United States Post Office and Courthouse in Ralph Cameron's office. Page and Southerland reopened their office in Austin in 1935. Their early projects were residences and several school buildings around the state. In 1938 they received their first big commission from the Public Works Administration to construct Rosewood Courts (called the Negro Housing Project at the time) in Austin.

Louis Page's younger brother George Matthews Page joined the firm after his graduation from The University of Texas School of Architecture in 1937 and an extended tour of Europe. The name of the firm was changed to Page Southerland Page in 1939/1940. While the firm continued to design residential projects it moved toward larger commercial, medical, educational, public and ecclesiastical buildings. Page Southerland Page was responsible for the Austin Municipal Building (1936), Dr. Pepper Bottling Plant (1939), Brackenridge Hospital (1940), Smithville Locker Plant (1944), Elgin-Butler Brick Company Office Building (1946), Mason Memorial Hospital (1948), McCallum High School (1952), Dart Bowl Bowling Center (1958), Palmer Auditorium (1959), IBM campus (1961), St. David's additions (1960s-1970s), as well as many other buildings in Texas. The firm opened offices in Dallas and Houston in 1974 and went on to design projects throughout the world.

Louis Page died in 1981, Louis Southerland followed in 1994 and George Page a year later. The firm, now just called Page, has continued to grow and currently (2016) has offices in five cities in addition to Austin.

Scope and Contents

The majority of the collection consists of architectural drawings designed by Page Southerland and Page Southerland Page dating from 1935 through the early 1980s. There are over 3000 drawings that represent approximately 275 projects of residential, commercial, medical, educational, public, ecclesiastical, and military nature; 80 of them attributed to Page Southerland and 194 attributed to Page Southerland Page. All of the projects are located in Texas, with over two-thirds of them located in Austin. Represented are 36 commercial designs including the Dr. Pepper Bottling Plant (1939, 1946-1947), Elgin-Butler Brick Company Office Building (1946), Powell and Woolsey Building (1950), Dart Bowl Bowling Center (1958), City National Bank Building (1969), and IBM Corporate Facilities (1975); 11 ecclesiastical designs including Church of the Good Shepherd (1945), Mexican Baptist Church (1946) and additions to the University Presbyterian Church (1950s); 25 educational projects including Pleasant Hill School (1935), Rosedale School (1946), Metz Elementary additions and renovations (1947) and McCallum High School (1952); 20 medical projects including various renovations and additions to St. David's Community Hospital (1950s, 1960s, 1970s), Brackenridge Hospital additions (1970s) and Seton Medical Center (1970s); 22 public projects including the Austin Municipal Building (1937), Rosewood Court Housing Project (1938), improvements to the Austin Water Filtration plant (1953), and the Post Office and Federal Building (1962); and 155 residential designs including single family homes, apartment buildings and fraternity/sorority houses.

In addition to the architectural drawings there are five black and white photographs of a 1946 unidentified institutional building project, a photo rendering of the proposed United State Naval Hospital in Austin and transparency of rendering of the City National Bank on Congress Avenue, Austin. Also included are a set of drafting tools.

Source: <https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00513/00513-P.html>. Original drawings of 3703 Meadowbank can be found at the Austin History Center (facility currently closed)

WATER SERVICE PERMIT

E

Nº

45973

Austin, Texas

Received of

Franklin W. Demiree

Date

2-3-66

Address

3703 Meadow Bank Dr

Amount

ninety & 40/100

Plumber

Puryear RLO

Size of Tap

40" 02
1 1/2

RESIDENTIAL WATER

Date of Connection 2-16-66
 Size of Tap Made 1 1/2"
 Size Service Made 1 1/2"
 Size Main Tapped 6" C.I.
 From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 7'
 From N. Prop. Line to Curb Cock 7'
 Location of Meter CURB
 Type of Box Round (2)
 Depth of Main in St. 4'
 Depth of Service Line 2'
 From Curb Cock to Tap on Main
 Checked by Engr. Dept. 2/16/66 B.D.

ENTERED APR 7 1966

Size

No. Fittings

Pipe 1 1/2" Cop.

Corp. Cock

Cop. to Iron ell

Cop. to Cop. ell

Cop. to Iron Coupling

Cop. to Cop. Coupling

Angle Stop 1 1/2"

Stop

Bushing

Nipples

Service Clamp

1 Valve Corp. Ell 1 1/2"

1 Meter Box Round (2)

1 Lock Lid

1 Drain Tile

1 Drain Tile Lid

Stop & Drain

Job No. 82132300502

Foreman R. P. Arnold

used stub E-40104



City of Austin

APPLICATION TO BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

WARNING: Filing of this appeal stops all affected construction activity

C1587-051

I/We Craig M. Overmiller, Architect affirm

that on Apr. 15, 1987, I/We applied for a permit to ERECT/ATTACH/COMPLETE/REMODEL/MAINTAIN
~~AN ACCESSORY STRUCTURE~~
~~POOL HOUSE~~ ONE FOOT FROM THE SIDE providing A MINIMUM
SIDE YARD OF 1 FOOT DUE TO THE CONSTRAINTS OF THE SITE in a "SF-3"
 (use) ~~POOL~~

zone on the following described property:

STREET ADDRESS 3703 MeadowbankDESCRIPTION — Subdivision Herman Brown Section 3

Lot(s) 2, Block B Outlot _____ Division _____ Map _____ Code _____

The requested permit was refused because: (check reasons that applies)

VARIANCE: From: Section 2204; Requires a minimum side yard of 5 feet.

~~THE PROPERTY IS:~~~~special circumstances:~~

prevents the issuance of a building permit. This is to certify that the permit as requested was not issued because of the above sections and paragraphs of the Zoning Ordinance.

Dated Apr. 15, 1987 Building Inspector Jim Smith by J.G.

Why do you feel that the variance should be granted? How does compliance with the Ordinance prevent you from making reasonable use of your property? What unique circumstance exists that necessitates relief from the Ordinance? (If more space is required use reverse side of application or attach separate sheet.) DUE TO CONSTRAINTS OF THE SITE.

APPLICANT'S CERTIFICATE (required)

I affirm that my statements contained in the complete application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed Craig Overmiller
 Mail Address 5200 Burnhamville Circle
 Phone 258-2077 Date 4/17/87
Craig Overmiller

OWNER'S CERTIFICATE (required, Sec. 403)

I affirm that I am the owner of the property under appeal and have full knowledge of the taking of this appeal.

Signed Frank Denius
 Mail Address 3703 Meadowbank
 Phone 4544940 Date 4/13/87
Frank Denius

Date: May 11, 1987

Case #C15- 87-051

APPLICANT: Craig M. Overmiller, ArchitectADDRESS: 3703 MeadowbankCHANGE REQUESTED: Variance to erect an accessory structure (pool house) providing
a minimum side yard of 1 foot, in a "SF-1" Single Family Residence
District.BUILDING INSPECT- Section 13-2A 2204 requires a minimum side yard of 5 feet.
ORS DECISION:BOARD OF
ADJUSTMENT
DECISION:

4-1 Grant. Will not seek changes.
Will not change usage of area.
Not benefit public good. Terrain
falls away tremendously. Not impair
adj. n'bers. No public interest
served in denying. Present structure
go on prop. line.

for Jim Smith
Jim Smith
Executive Secretary

Liz Berezovitch
Liz Berezovitch
Chairperson

1987 permit for noncontributing poolhouse by architect Craig M. Overmiller, who also directed the Texas Solar Power Company at 1703 W. Koenig Ln. until around 2015.